



Hon. Robert T. Matsui

Member of Congress

Robert T. Matsui
Serving California's 5th District

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MATSUI MEETS WITH SACRAMENTO AREA VETERANS

Discusses health care, survivors benefits

SACRAMENTO, CA – Congressman Robert T. Matsui met today with Sacramento area veterans to discuss health care, disability benefits, and other issues important to the community at the Sacramento Veterans Resource Center. Representatives from the American Legion, Disabled Veterans of America, Vietnam Veterans of America, Sacramento Standdown Association, the Tuskegee Airmen, and the NAACP Veterans Committee attended the meeting.

“We are grateful for the great sacrifices you have made to ensure the safety and security of our country,” Matsui said. “Your service has been immeasurable, and our commitment to you must be the same. We need to ensure there is a system of benefits, including health care and disability, which you can count on. We owe the same to the brave men and women currently serving our country.”

Matsui outlined a proposal put forth by House Democrats that would eliminate “concurrent receipt” which forces veterans to give up one dollar of their pension for every dollar of veterans’ benefit disability pay they receive. Over 1,600 veterans in Sacramento are subject to this penalty, also known as the “disabled veterans’ tax,” and lose \$8.3 million in benefits every year. He also described a proposal to ensure the benefit a surviving spouse of a military retiree receives is not reduced when they are eligible for Social Security. Currently, the survivor’s benefit is reduced from 55% of the retiree’s pension to 35%, resulting in a net loss of income.

Both of these proposals enjoy wide bipartisan support in Congress, but have not been put to a vote.

Matsui also discussed proposals to alleviate the long waits many veterans face when trying to make appointments to receive health care at VA hospitals, and when they file disability claims. Many veterans wait six months or longer for their VA hospital appointment, and over nine months to finalize their disability claims.

The Sacramento Veterans Resource Center provides transitional housing for homeless veterans. They also offer counseling services and employment skills training for all veterans in the Sacramento area, regardless if they are residents of the center.

“I applaud the Sacramento Veterans Resource Center for their excellent work and thank them for their dedication.”

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